

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (a) to (d) ~~[[e]]~~ below:

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a protein-coding region of the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2;

~~(c) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 in which one or more amino acids are replaced, deleted, inserted, and/or added at positions other than 27 to 213, wherein the polynucleotide comprises an activity of a blood cell growth and differentiation factor;~~

(c) ~~[[d]]~~ a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~positions 27 to 213~~, wherein said polynucleotide ~~comprises~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence according to positions 58 to 696 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~positions 58 to 696~~ and wherein the peptide is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor; and

(d) ~~[[e]]~~ a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~positions 27 to 213~~ and wherein the peptide is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor.

2 – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A vector into which the polynucleotide according to claim 1 is inserted.

5. (Previously Presented) An isolated transformant comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising cultivating the transformant according to claim 5, under conditions sufficient for the production of the protein, and collecting the protein from the culture. ~~expression products.~~

7 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An isolated transformant comprising the vector according to claim 4.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising cultivating the transformant according to claim 19, under conditions sufficient for the production of the protein, and collecting ~~expression products~~ the protein from the culture.

21. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2.

22. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the isolated protein is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor.

25. (New) A vector into which the polynucleotide according to claim 21 is inserted.

26. (New) An isolated transformant comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 21.